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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Wednesday, August 27, 1930

File 2
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Housekeeper's Chat

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SUBJECT: "Bobby's First Trousers." Suggestions from the Bureau of Home Economics, also menu for children.

LEAFLET AVAILABLE: "Suits for the Small Boy."

--ooOoo--

I dropped in on my friend Nora the other afternoon, and found her making Bobby's first trousers. Trousers for Bobby! My, how TEMPUS does FUGIT! Only the other day, so it seemed, and Nora was making a layette. Now here was Bobby, all thru with dresses and rompers, and into the trouser class. The next time, he'll be ready for a boy scout suit, I thought, and then a college blazer.

But NORA was not bothering with the future just then. She was busy with buttonholes. Suddenly, she snapped off her thread, and held up a pair of diminutive blue trousers.

"Buttonholes never did thrill me, Aunt Sammy," Nora said. "That is why I chose this pattern for Bobby's first trousers." Nora loves to make remarks that start people guessing. This time, though, she didn't wait for me to ask questions. She went right on.

"Why, Aunt Sammy, when I went to buy a pattern for this suit of Bobby's I was appalled. I counted the buttonholes I'd have to make on some of the designs I looked at. And I counted all the buttons Bobby would have to learn to manage. How we were going to struggle with all these buttons, and buttonholes, I didn't quite see.

"So I went over and looked at ready-to-wear suits, for youngsters of Bobby's age. Their button score was even higher. One suit, Aunt Sammy," and here Nora's blue eyes grew very serious. "One suit," she repeated, "intended for a wee boy like Bobby had TWENTY BUTTONS. I almost bought it to put in a museum."

"No need to do that, Nora," I said, "there are plenty of suits like that walking around on small boys."

"So I suppose they are," said Nora, calming down a little. "I never thought much about small boys' suits, until Bobby came along. But I'm trying to teach him INDEPENDENCE, you know - bringing him up with the SELF-HELP idea. Now, how can a two-year old boy learn SELF-HELP from a suit with TWENTY BUTTONS? How, I ask you, Aunt Sammy?"

SECRET

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, Plaintiff,
vs.
[Name obscured]

Defendant.

That the Plaintiff is a person of high standing and reputation in the community and is entitled to the protection of the law; and that the Defendant is a person of low standing and reputation in the community and is not entitled to the protection of the law; and that the Defendant has acted in a manner which is contrary to the public interest and the good of the community; and that the Plaintiff is entitled to the relief requested.

And the Plaintiff prays that the Court will grant the relief requested and that the Defendant be held liable for the damages suffered by the Plaintiff.

Wherefore the Plaintiff prays that the Court will grant the relief requested and that the Defendant be held liable for the damages suffered by the Plaintiff.

And the Plaintiff prays that the Court will grant the relief requested and that the Defendant be held liable for the damages suffered by the Plaintiff.

And the Plaintiff prays that the Court will grant the relief requested and that the Defendant be held liable for the damages suffered by the Plaintiff.

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And the Plaintiff prays that the Court will grant the relief requested and that the Defendant be held liable for the damages suffered by the Plaintiff.

She was getting indignant all over again, I saw. So I asked quickly, "Where did you finally get the pattern for Bobby's suit? Only ten buttonholes on the whole suit, if I count right, aren't there? The blouse seems to have tricky crocheted loops, no buttonholes at all."

"This is a self-help suit," said Nora with quite an air. "I went back to the pattern books a second time, and hunted and hunted, until I finally discovered this. It was in one of the regular pattern books, put out by one of the big companies. The design, though, comes from the Bureau of Home Economics, so the caption says. Now I'm bringing YOU up-to-date, Aunt Sammy."

So I let Nora tell me all about this self-help suit for a small boy, designed by the Bureau of Home Economics. The clever front drop in the trousers, the stitched-down piece around the neck, that looks like a collar but is far easier to make and launder. All the features that I knew my friends in the Bureau of Home Economics had worked out with the greatest care, Nora pointed out.

Nora is one of those smart, young matrons who like to discover things for themselves..So I didn't tell her that I knew Miss Clarice Scott, the designer of these suits, and of lots of other clever clothes for children. Some day, I'll surprise Nora and bring Miss Scott to see Bobby, in his first self-help trousers

Before I left, Nora showed me the pretty cotton materials she has for more suits for Bobby. Nora loves COLOR, and she believes in starting Bobby young, to appreciate color too. He'll have to wear greys, and dark browns soon enough, she says. So now she's giving him soft green, and blue, and yellow. For a suit for mid-winter wear, Nora has some lovely blue wash flannel. She has some very good-looking covert cloth, too, for a play-suit, so that Bobby can be outdoors in all winds and weathers.

But I can't tell you EVERY thing about Nora and Bobby today. I've promised a menu. Here's one that seems to feature the late summer vegetable. I'm sure the Menu Specialist must have had children in mind too.

Ready for the menu:

Baked stuffed tomatoes; Spinach or some other Green Leafy Vegetable; Creamed Corn; and, for Dessert, Chocolate Custard.

Want the recipe for the Baked Stuffed Tomatoes? It's a rather long one, with nine ingredients. Ready with pencils?

6 large firm tomatoes	1/4 teaspoon celery seed
6 strips bacon	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons chopped parsley	1/8 teaspoon pepper, and
1 tablespoon chopped onion	1/2 cup buttered bread crumbs
1 cup dry bread crumbs	

I'll repeat the nine ingredients for Baked Stuffed Tomatoes.

Wash the tomatoes, remove a thin slice from the stem end, and carefully scoop out the pulp, so that tomato shells will not be broken. Fry the bacon until

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crisp, remove from the pan, and break the bacon into small pieces. Add the parsley and onion to the fat; and cook for a few minutes. Then add the cup of dry bread crumbs, celery seed, salt, pepper, crisped bacon, and tomato pulp. Stir until well mixed. Add more salt if necessary. Fill the tomato cups with this mixture, and cover the top with the buttered crumbs. Place the stuffed tomatoes in a shallow baking dish, and bake in a moderate oven for 45 to 60 minutes, or until the tomatoes are tender, and the crumbs are brown. Serve from the baking dish.

For the creamed corn, cook corn on the cob for a few minutes, score it, and scrape out the pulp from the grains. Add rich milk or cream, season with salt, and let simmer for 10 or 15 minutes.

So much for recipes today. Shall we run thru the menu once more: Baked Stuffed Tomatoes; Spinach or some other Green Leafy Vegetable; Creamed Corn; and, for dessert, Chocolate Custard.

That's all today. Thursday I'll answer questions.

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